

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BONN

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0492

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO DEFENSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: OPTION 3 - FURTHER EQUIPMENT REDUCTIONS

REF: (A) USNATO 5764

(B) MBFR VIENNA 0484

1. WE NOTE THAT FRG REP IN THE SPC IS STILL INSISTING THAT THE ALLIES MUST TELL THE EAST EXPLICITLY THAT REDUCTIONS OF NON-US EQUIPMENT ARE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE WEST IN EITHER PHASE OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. THE US SHOULD CONTINUE TO RESIST THIS POSITION STRONGLY BECAUSE OF THE DAMAGE IT WOULD DO TO THE WESTERN NEGOTIATING POSITION IN VIENNA.

2. THE CHIEF INTEREST OF THE SOVIETS AND OTHER WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES IN THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS IS TO REDUCE AND LIMIT GERMAN FORCES. BUT, AS MATTERS NOW STAND, THE SOVIETS HAVE SHOWN AT LEAST FRAGMENTARY BEGINNINGS OF REALIZATION THAT EASTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONCEPTS OF PHASING AND THE COMMON CEILING IS THE ONLY FEASIBLE ROAD TO THE DESIRED GOAL OF GERMAN REDUCTIONS.

3. ALLIED STATEMENTS IN VIENNA THAT THE WEST IS NOT WILLING

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TO ACCEPT NON-US ARMAMENT REDUCTIONS IN EITHER PHASE WOULD

WE BELIEVE, HAVE A STRONG AND PERHAPS FUNDAMENTAL IMPACT ON THE SOVIET PERSPECTIVE OF THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS. THEY WILL DEMONSTRATE THAT PHASE II WILL BRING THE EAST LITTLE IF ANYTHING MORE THAN A THIN-OUT CONVERSION OF GERMAN TROOPS TO THE GERMAN STAND-BY RESERVE. AS A CONSEQUENCE, EASTERN WILLINGNESS TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE PRESENT EASTERN PROGRAM IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE EASTERN INTERESTS WITH REGARD TO GERMANY WILL BE SHARPLY DECREASED BY THE REALIZATION THAT, FROM THEIR PERSPECTIVE, VERY LITTLE WILL BE POSSIBLE ON THIS POINT EVEN IN THE LONG RUN. THE CONSEQUENCE WOULD BE TO MAKE UNATTAINABLE SOVIET AGREEMENT TO THE COMMON CEILING AND PHASING.

4. GIVEN THE SIZE OF THESE POTENTIAL COSTS, I SUGGEST IT MAY BE WORTHWHILE EXPLORING FURTHER WHETHER THE POSITION REFLECTED IN HOYNCK'S REMARKS IS HELD AT SENIOR LEVELS OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS BY GERMAN WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS AND WHETHER THE GERMANS MIGHT NOT BE SATISFIED WITH SOMETHING LESS THAN THE FULL LOAF OF A DEFINITIVE NATO DECISION NOT TO REDUCE NON-US NATO ARMAMENTS IN PHASE II. A BILATERAL US ASSURANCE TO THE GERMANS ON THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL TO THE EFFECT THAT THE US AGREES THAT THE FRG SHOULD NOT REDUCE ARMAMENTS AND WILL SUPPORT THIS POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIETS IN PHASE II AS WELL AS JOINING IN RESISTING SOVIET EFFORTS IN PHASE I TO OBTAIN COMMITMENTS ON GERMAN ARMAMENTS REDUCTIONS, MIGHT BE AN ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTE AND WORTH CONSIDERING.

5. THE US SHOULD IN ANY EVENT HOLD OUT AGAINST REQUIRING THE ALLIED NEGOTIATORS IN VIENNA TO MAKE THE POINT AGAINST REDUCTION OF NON-US ARMAMENTS TO THE EAST IN THE HOPE THAT, IF NATO DECIDES THAT THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE WITHHELD, THIS WILL IN FACT BE DONE FOR A SUFFICIENTLY LONG PERIOD FOR AN INITIAL SOVIET RESPONSE TO THE WESTERN OPTION 3 PROPOSAL.

DEAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED DEFENSE.

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